

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05 A-01
OPR-02 MCT-02 HA-05 EB-08 PER-01 L-03 COME-00
AGRE-00 AID-05 PC-01 ICA-11 FBOE-00 OC-06 CCO-00
SS-15 NSC-05 /095 W
-----046595 151832Z /50

R 132226Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8834
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS, CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 3610

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2767

I. INTRODUCTION

SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE OF EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
MET ON JULY 10. APPRECIATION WAS EXPRESSED FOR GOOD WORK
OF DEPARTING RSO JAMES SANFORD, AND TEMPORARY CHARGE OF
OFFICE OF SECURITY WAS ASSUMED BY ARSO RALPH CHIOCCO
PENDING ARRIVAL HERE OF NEW RSO CHRISTOPHER DISNHFU AS
IN PAST MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL SECURITY WAS
EXCLUDED FROM COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AS BEING SPECIAL
CASE.

II. GENERAL POLITICAL PICTURE AND SECURITY SITUATION

A. OF THREE OUTSTANDING KIDNAPPINGS AT TIME OF
LAST SWC MEETING:

1. TWO PROMINENT SALVADORANS HAVE BEEN
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SUCCESSFULLY RANSOMED.

2. JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN IS STILL MISSING.

A. GOES SAYS PUBLICLY IT THINKS HE IS
DEAD;

B. FAMILY AND COMPANY REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS.

B. AS RESULT OF KIDNAPPINGS, RADICAL REVOLUTIONARY LEFT IS NOW AMPLY FINANCED AND NEWLY-CONFIDENT.

C. GOVERNMENT REMAINS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO "DO SOMETHING."

D. BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OF US, GERMANY AND JAPAN REMAIN UNNERVED, WITH SOME MEMBERS DEPARTING.

E. EVIDENCE OF ALL SIDES ARMING SELVES FOR A COMING STRUGGLE:

1. PRIVATE ARMIES ON RIGHT;

2. AUTOMATIC WEAPONS APPEAR TO BE REACHING PEASANTS IN COUNTRYSIDE;

3. SECURITY IS THE "GROWTH INDUSTRY" OF EL SALVADOR.

F. MOST RECENTLY THERE IS SOMETHING OF A LULL AS RADICAL REVOLUTIONARY LEFT ADJUSTS TO ITS NEW SITUATION OF AFFLUENCE, REORGANIZES AND REGROUPS ITS FORCES, AND LOOKS AHEAD TO A NEW PERIOD OF INCREASED MILITANCY
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IN AUGUST.

III. SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN SINCE LAST MEETING

A. ISSUANCE OF NEW EMBASSY ID CARD.

B. ALERTING OF ALL AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS AND FAMILIES TO NEED FOR INCREASED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.

C. REQUEST TO HOST GOVERNMENT BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED MAY 31, 1978, TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PROTECT EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND MEMBERS OF THE RESIDENT BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

D. MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN RESIDENT COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS CURRENT THREAT.

E. DISTRIBUTION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN RESIDENT COMMUNITY OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 8884 "COUNTERING TERRORISM" AND PROCUREMENT FROM WASHINGTON OF ADDITIONAL COPIES OF SAME.

F. SHOWINGS TO AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS AND TO MEMBERS OF RESIDENT AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF TRAINING FILMS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF SECURITY.

G. ELABORATION OF A CONTINGENCY PLAN, ALONG LINES APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT, FOR DEALING WITH ANY SIT-IN DEMONSTRATION ON EMBASSY PREMISES BY HUMAN-RIGHTS DEMONSTRATORS.

H. PREPARATORY WORK AND DISCUSSIONS LOOKING TOWARD ACTIVATION OF A LOCAL TASK FORCE (LTF) FOR DEALING WITH ANY CRISIS SITUATION PRECIPITATED BY KIDNAPPING OF AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN EL SALVADOR.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 3610

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICE AS THE CENTRAL FOCAL POINT FOR HANDLING CALLS, INQUIRIES, VISITS, ETC., FROM AMERICAN BUSINESS AND RESIDENT COMMUNITY.

J. A SHARPLY INCREASED VOLUME OF LIAISON ON SECURITY MATTERS WITH OTHER LOCAL EMBASSIES, LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS, SECURITY OFFICERS VISITING FROM UNITED STATES, ETC.

K. AS A RESULT OF SEARCH OF AN AID EMPLOYEE'S HOME, AN ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE WAS ISSUED ON JUNE 29 ADVISING ALL STAFF MEMBERS HOW TO REACT IN CASE OF POLICE ENTRY INTO THEIR HOMES.

IV. ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES STILL PENDING.

A. HARDEN ACCESS CONTROLS TO PUBLIC AREAS.

B. BRING E&E PLAN AND WARDEN SYSTEM TO CURRENT STATUS.

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C. SCHEDULE EARLY MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF E&E WARDEN SYSTEM.

D. IMPROVE PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION, RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND UTILIZATION OF LOCAL GUARD FORCE.

E. PROCURE A NEW IMPROVED TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

F. CHECK ON BONA FIDES AND VAILIDITY OF "SERENO" SYSTEM OF NIGHT WATCHMEN TO WHICH MOST STAFF MEMBERS SUBSCRIBE.

G. CONTINUE DISCUSSING WITH WASHINGTON APPARENT OFFER FROM AID SOURCES OF COMPLETE NEW MOTOROLA SYSTEM WHICH WOULD EQUIP ADDITIONAL US CITIZEN STAFF MEMBERS WITH OWN RADIOS.

H. CHANGE CALL LETTERS ON INTERNAL RADIO SYSTEM.

I. EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF NEW AND BETTER RADIO FREQUENCIES FOR E&E SYSTEM.

J. CONSIDER PRACTICAL WAYS OF EXCLUDING UNESCORTED LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND OUTSIDE VISITORS MORE EFFECTIVELY FROM THIRD FLOOR OF EMBASSY CHANCERY.

V. CONCLUSION

SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS AGREED THAT IN FACE OF EXISTING THREAT SITUATION US EMBASSY AND RESIDENT AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE INCIDENTS OR INJURIES. CONTINUED SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS AND APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS WERE URGED.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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